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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

27488 7590 08/19/2011  
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER	
COLUCCI, MICHAEL C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,623	01/10/2004	Renaud J. Lecoeuche	14917.1743US01/306347.01	4215

TITLE OF INVENTION: FOCUS TRACKING IN DIALOGS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	11/21/2011

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
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**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
**or Fax (571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

27488      7590      08/19/2011  
**MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)**  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

### **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,623	01/10/2004	Renaud J. Lecoeuche	14917.1743US01/306347.01	4215

TITLE OF INVENTION: FOCUS TRACKING IN DIALOGS

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	11/21/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
COLUCCI, MICHAEL C	2626	704-270100

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev.03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list  
(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,  
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent):  Individual  Corporation or other private group entity  Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

Issue Fee  
 Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
 Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

A check is enclosed.  
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.  
 b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/755,623	01/10/2004	Renaud J. Lecoeuche	14917.1743US01/306347.01	4215
27488	7590	08/19/2011	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT) P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			COLUCCI, MICHAEL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	
			DATE MAILED:	08/19/2011

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1104 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1104 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

## Privacy Act Statement

**The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/755,623	LECOEUCHE, RENAUD J.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>

MICHAEL COLUCCI  
2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 06/23/2011.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5,7,9-11,14,15,18,20 and 22-24.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.

/MICHAEL COLUCCI/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-11, 14, 15, 18, 20 and 22-24 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After careful review of the arguments presented in the prior arguments, such as Remarks pages 11-12,

*"Guo is merely cited as disclosing a system that actively provides the user with useful information related to a particular topic. According to Guo, a user responds to a prompt by including information about the prompt (i.e. introduction) and an interest in another topic. Execution of a particular sub-task may be interrupted by the user expressing interest in another topic. This initiates a sub-dialog. After completion of the sub-dialog, the system will begin again to continue on with its previous tasks.*

*However, Alpdemir, Tackett and Guo, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a dialog departing from a selected order to provide a new prompt that is generated by a module using markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer to the previous audible prompt that was given by the user after an immediately previous audible response. Alpdemir, Tackett and Guo fail to mention generating a new prompt that is generated by a module using markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an*

*answer to the previous audible prompt. Rather, Alpdemir and Tackett are silent to the generation of a new prompt. Tackett merely rearranges entries in a stack, but not does not suggest generating a new prompt.*

*Guo merely discloses the use of a task model that defines tasks in a hierarchical structure. Guo teaches that the tasks may include a priority task and a plurality of sub-tasks. Guo discloses that the sub-tasks may be skipped as a function of user input. However, Guo does not suggest generating a new prompt based on receiving an answer to a prompt that include additional information that is not an answer to the previous audible prompt"*

In view of Remarks and further analysis of the most recent amendments, Examiner believes that the prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach:

**Claim 1:**

“wherein the dialog departs from the selected order to provide a new prompt generated by the module using markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer to the previous audible prompt that was given by the user after an immediately previous audible response; and

wherein the new prompt generated by the module as a function of the response that included additional information that was not an answer to the

immediately previous audible prompt that was given is provided to the user to at an adapted point in the selected order to provide a promoted audible prompt subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt in the selected order and skipping at least an audible response subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt”

**Claim 11:**

“receiving a user response to one of the a first audible prompts that includes an answer to a first question associated with the first audible prompt and additional information provided in the user response with the answer, the additional information not being an answer to the first question associated with the first audible prompt generating a new audible prompt that is related to the additional information using the markup related to the grammar used for recognition as a function of the additional information provided in the user response with the answer; providing to the user at an adapted point in the selected order of questions to provide a promoted audible prompt associated with a second question subsequent to the first audible prompt associated with the first question and skipping at least one audible prompt immediately after the first audible prompt”

3. Further, all arguments directed to claims 1 and 11 were considered in light of the specification and is believed to overcome the current references used for rejection, particularly the closest:

A)	US 20020035474 A1	Alpdemir	20020321
B)	US 6615111 B2	Tackett et al.	20030902
C)	US 20030137537 A1	Guo et al.	20030724
D)	US 5357596 A	Takebayashi et al.	19941018
E)	US 6662163 B1	Albayrak et al.	20031209
F)	US 20040117804 A1	Scahill et al.	20040617

Reference A) teaches well known uses of user and caller center interaction with respect to a markup such as that in HTML on a computer screen. However, A) severely lacks any teaching or suggestion of the allowable claim limitations. At Best, A) teaches a strictly ordered prompt/response scheme with additional responses of "help" for instance. A) in no way teaches or suggest returning to an order after handling an additional response (the call simply terminates), let alone "an adapted point in the selected order to provide a promoted audible prompt subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt in the selected order and skipping at least an audible response subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt" or "providing to the user at an adapted point in the selected order of questions to provide a promoted audible prompt associated with a second question subsequent to the first audible prompt associated

with the first question and skipping at least one audible prompt immediately after the first audible prompt". A) is specific to the well known teachings of automated dialog systems, and assuming that an adapted point is somehow taught, at the very least, A) fails to teach markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer.

Reference B) is pertinent to keeping order of responses and prompts within a stack, where a discrepancy may be addressed out of order. However, like A), reference B) in no way teaches or suggest returning to an order after handling an additional response (the call simply terminates), let alone "an adapted point in the selected order to provide a promoted audible prompt subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt in the selected order and skipping at least an audible response subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt" or "providing to the user at an adapted point in the selected order of questions to provide a promoted audible prompt associated with a second question subsequent to the first audible prompt associated with the first question and skipping at least one audible prompt immediately after the first audible prompt". A) is specific to the well known teachings of automated dialog systems. The combination of A) and B), while appearing analogous, at best addresses grammar and markup with respect to dialogs but lacks any teaching of suggestion of the allowable steps in the claim language. There is no assumption that one of ordinary skill in the art could make with respect to the combination of A) and B) that would read upon the claim

languages limitation of generating a new prompt and skipping an audible response/prompt, as well as markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer.

Reference C) is the most pertinent prior art found with respect to the complex dialog system of the present invention, wherein C) is pertinent to sub-dialogs. C) relates to providing prompts to a user where the user has the option to speak an out-of-context input and the system can respond with extra information. C) does not appear to teach either "a new prompt generated by the module using markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer to the previous audible prompt that was given by the user after an immediately previous audible response" or "generating a new audible prompt that is related to the additional information using the markup related to the grammar used for recognition as a function of the additional information provided in the user response with the answer", wherein C) does not make mention of any type of markup. Given this lack of teaching, the combination of A) or B) with C) may be non-analogous, since C) appears to be dealing strictly with voice and not markup such as html with voice capability. Assuming arguendo that the combination is analogous and there is some kind of Markup language inherent that is being manipulated as a result of dialog responses, and further assuming that an adapted point in the dialog is merely interpreted as an out of context response

(given the broadest reasonable interpretation), the combination still severely lacks teaching or suggestion of such complex steps directed “to providing to the user at an adapted point in the selected order of questions to provide a promoted audible prompt associated with a second question subsequent to the first audible prompt associated with the first question and skipping at least one audible prompt immediately after the first audible prompt”. One of ordinary skill in the art would not combine A)-C) to derive at the allowable subject matter. At best C) could be interpreted as reading upon “generating a new audible prompt” or sub-dialog independently from A) and B), and still further fails to teach markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer.

References D) and E) are pertinent to dialog systems but do not teach the allowable subject matter. D) and E) are more specific to synonymous responses from users, but do not suggest anything related to unordered response/prompts, specifically “an adapted point in the selected order to provide a promoted audible prompt subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt in the selected order and skipping at least an audible response subsequent to the immediately previous audible prompt” or “providing to the user at an adapted point in the selected order of questions to provide a promoted audible prompt associated with a second question subsequent to the first audible prompt associated with the first question and skipping at least one audible prompt immediately after the first audible prompt”. D) and E) also fail to

contribute to reading upon “markup related to the grammar for recognition as a function of a response that includes both an answer to the previous audible prompt and additional information that is not an answer”

Overall Examiner finds limited prior art related to the allowable subject matter. Though automated dialogs are well known in the art, the claim language provides complex steps, for instance with respect to departing from a dialogue, skipping responses and questions, and combining response data to form a new prompt. Within the limited prior art, Examiner found a strong reference F) with an invalid priority date which read upon the skipping prompts if information was already acquired. Reference F) is an extremely pertinent reference in the field of IVR or automated speech dialog systems involving Markup but is not applicable toward the present invention. Aside from reference F) being invalid, as demonstrated, any combinations of A)-E) in any order would not read upon the claim language.

When searching for additional prior art for the limitation as recited in claims 1 and 11 the most relevant topics pertained to material from the same Inventor and Assignee but did not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitation of claims 1 and 11. Further, all claims dependent on claims 1 and 11 are allowed because they further limit their respective parent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Colucci whose telephone number is (571)-270-1847. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571)-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael C Colucci/  
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